

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3968

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION NATO

USOECN PARIS 517

USEC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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SUBJECT: NATO AND FISHERIES DISPUTE: LUNS VISIT

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY MFA FOLLOWING NATO
SYG LUNS VISIT TO ICELAND TO PRESENT NAC MILITARY COMMITTEE
REPORT ON IDF COMPLAINED ABOUT NATO INACTION IN FISHERIES
DISPUTE AND REFERRED TO STATEMENT BY ICELANDIC MINISTERS THAT
PRESENT SITUATION COULD AFFECT ICELAND'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS NATO.
COMMUNIST-DOMINATED PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE PARTY DELIVERED LETTER
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TO LUNS STRONGLY CRITICIZING LUNS VISIT AS INTERFERENCE

IN ICELANDIC DOMESTIC AFFAIRS AND REAFFIRMING INTENTION TO BRING ABOUT WITHDRAWAL OF IDF. SAME DETERMINATION WAS EXPRESSED BY PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE CABINET MINISTER MAGNUS KJARTANSSON IN NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE RELEASED BY MFA AT CONCLUSION OF NATO SYG LUNS VISIT TO ICELAND TO DELIVER NAC MILITARY COMMITTEE STUDY: "THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION PRESENTED TODAY TO THE ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT THE MILITARY ASSESSEMENT OF THE ALLIANCE DRAWN UP IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUEST OF THE ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT UNDER THE TERMS OF THE DEFENCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ICELAND AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OF 5 MAY 1951.

DR. LUNS' BRIEFING WAS FOLLOWED BY A FULL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. IN THE COURSE OF THESE DISCUSSIONS THE QUESTION OF THE FISHERIES DISPUTE WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM WAS BROUGHT UP BY THE ICELANDIC SIDE. THE ICELANDIC MINISTERS EXPRESSED THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT OVER DEVELOPMENTS SINCE ICELAND APPROACHED THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL IN MAY OF THIS YEAR. THEREUPON, "THE SECRETARY GENERAL INFORMED THE ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT OF HIS PERSONAL ACTION IN THE MATTER. THE ICELANDIC MINISTERS STATED THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION COULD HAVE AN EFFECT ON ICELAND'S ATTITUDE TO THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. THE FOLLOWING MINISTERS OF THE ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT TOOK PART IN THE TALKS: PRIME MINISTER OLAFUR JOHANNESSEN, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS EINAR AGUSTSSON, MINISTER OF HEALTH AND INDUSTRIES MAGNUS KJARTANSSON AND MINISTER OF EDUCATION MAGNUS TORFI OLAFSSON."

3. DELEGATION FROM COMMUNIST-DOMINATED PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE PARTY DELIVERED LETTER SIGNED BY PARTY CHAIRMAN RAGNAR ARNALDS TO LUNS DURING VISIT. LETTER REFERRED TO "MILITARY AGGRESSION" BY BRITISH "NATO-ATLANTIC FLEET" DURING PAST FOUR MONTHS. LETTER WENT ON TO COMMENT ON ICELANDIC REQUEST FOR NATO INTERVENTION TO ENCOURAGE WITHDRAWAL OF BRITISH FLEET AND FAILURE TO BRING ABOUT ANY CHANGE IN THE SITUATION. LETTER CONCLUDED AS FOLLOWS: "THEREFORE IT MUST AROUSE SOME AMAZEMENT THAT YOU MAKE A TRIP TO ICELAND TO REQUEST THE ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT THAT IT, OUT OF CONCERN FOR NATO "AND BECAUSE OF FOREIGN INTERESTS, CHANGE ITS DECLARED POLICY ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE U.S. MILITARY. THAT DECISION WAS TAKEN UNCLASSIFIED

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OVER OVER TWO YEARS AND IS ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL POLICY POINTS OF THE ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT. THIS TRIP OF YOUR NOT ONLY INDICATES OPTIMISM BORDERING ON INSOLENCE AFTER ALL THAT HAS BEEN TAKING PLACE DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS IN ICELAND'S RELATIONS WITH NATO, BUT THIS IS ALSO A FRAGRANT INTERFERENCE IN ICELANDIC DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. TO BE SURE, THE SO-CALLED DEFENSE AGREEMENT OF 1951, WHICH AT THE TIME CONSTITUTED A VIOLATION OF THE ICELANDIC CONSTITUTION AND WHICH THE ICELAN-

DIC NATION HAS NEVER APPROVED, PROVIDES THAT NATO'S OPINION IS TO BE SOUGHT IN THE REVIEWAL OF THE THE AGREEMENT, BUT YOUR NATURAL SENSE OF DECENCY AND THAT OF YOUR COLLEAGUES SHOULD MAKE YOU UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS A DECISION THAT ICELANDERS MUST THEMSELVES TAKE WITHOUT REGARD TO PROPAGANDIST WISHES OR THREATS FROM ONE FOREIGN PARTY OR THE OTHER."

4. PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIES AND HEALTH
"MAGNUS KJARTANSSON IN INTERVIEW WITH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC DAILY ALTHYDUBLADID SEPTEMBER 17 STATED AS FOLLOWS: "IN THE TALKS I PRESENTED MY OPINION THAT WE ARE NOT WILLING TO DISCUSS WHETHER THE MILITARY WITHDRAWS AND HOW." KJARTANSSON SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE CONTENTS OF THE REPORT PRESENTED BY LUNS WERE SECRET, IT CONTAINED NOTHING NEW, ONLY WHAT HAD APPEARED BEFORE REGARDING OPINIONS OF NATO LEADERS ON THE KEFLAVIK BASE. "YOU OR I COULD JUST AS WELL HAVE PREPARED THIS REPORT," KJARTANSSON TOLD HIS INTERVIEWER.
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